

which he calls *Pyrgophorus*; describing a number of new species from Nicaragua, probably all identical with either Pfeiffer's or Morelets' forms, the latter being apparently unknown to him. About a pint of these Nicaragua shells were sent to the writer a year or more since; the variability shown by them is extraordinary, and renders it doubtful whether more than one species of *Potamopyrgus* can be defined in America. *Pyrgophorus* Ancey, must become a synonym of *Potamopyrgus*.

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THE SHELL-BEARING MOLLUSCA OF RHODE ISLAND.

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BY HORACE F. CARPENTER.

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FAMILY CYPRINIDÆ.

This family contains but one genus and that genus but one species. This species, *Cyprina Islandica*, inhabits from the eastern end of Long Island to the Arctic Ocean, and from thence southward to England. It is said to have been found off Block Island in 29 fathoms' water, but is hardly entitled to a place in the "Shell-bearing Mollusca of Rhode Island."

FAMILY ISOCARDIIDÆ.

Three genera and twenty-three species, not represented in America, by living species, but there are several fossil species.

FAMILY CARDIIDÆ.

Five genera and over one hundred and fifty species, is represented in R. I. by two genera, each with a single species. The shells constituting this family are called Cockles. They abound in shallow water in sandy places and are used for food. They are also found in deeper water. One species, *Cardium edule* is collected in immense numbers in Great Britain, where they take the place of clams, which are as rare with them as Cockles are with us.

Genus *Cardium* Linné, 1758.

There are about one hundred species, distributed world wide. The genus is divided by some authors into several sections, into one of which, *Cerastoderma*, falls the only species which inhabits R. I.

177.—*Cardium pinnulatum*, Conrad.

Shell small, sub-orbicular, beaks slightly elevated, surface dingy-white, with twenty-six ribs radiating from the beaks, separated from each other by deep grooves; on each rib is a series of equidistant arched scales or spines; interior flesh colored or white, furrowed to correspond with the exterior ribs. Length  $\frac{1}{2}$ , height 4-10, breadth 3-10. This pretty little shell is found generally in the stomachs of fishes. It inhabits from Long Island Sound to Labrador. It is rare in Long Island Sound, a little more abundant in Narragansett Bay and quite common in Buzzard's Bay and Vineyard Sound in four to twelve fathoms' water. Conrad found his specimens in Massachusetts Bay and described the species in Journ. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., vi, 260, 1831.

Genus *Laevicardium*, Swainson, 1840.

The genus *Cardium* has radiating ribs on the exterior which interlock at the margins. *Laevicardium* has a smooth surface, but most of the species have interlocking margins. There are twenty-one species of universal distribution, one of which inhabit R. I.

178.—*Laevicardium Mortonii*, Con.

Syns.

*Cardium Mortonii*, Con., DeKay, Stimp., Smith.

*Liocardium Mortonii*, Stimp., Dall, W. G. Binney.

*Laevicardium Mortonii*, Reeve, Tryon, Perkins.

Shell thin, sub-globose; beaks large, nearly central; surface smooth, glossy white, yellowish or fawn color; interior bright yellow, excepting the margins which are white, and a dark purple blotch on the posterior margin. Length one inch, height 9.10, breadth 7.10.

Described by T. A. Conrad at the same time with *Cardium pinnulatum*. It ranges from Cape Cod to Florida and the northern shores of the Gulf of Mexico. It is quite abundant in R. I. at times, and at others very scarce, although young specimens may be seen on our sandy shores at all times. The young shells usually have zigzag blotches of dark brown on the exterior surface, which disappears as the shell approaches maturity.

## FAMILY VERTICORDIDÆ.

Not represented in America.

## FAMILY CHAMIDÆ.

Not represented in the U. S. excepting as fossils.

## FAMILY HIPPURITIDÆ.

(Order Rudistes, Lam.)

All the genera and species of this family are extinct.

## FAMILY MEGALODONTIDÆ.

All fossil.

## FAMILY TRIDACNIDÆ.

None in America.

(To be continued.)

## GENERAL NOTES.

BYTHINIA TENTACULATA, LINN, IN OHIO.—Recently while collecting on Lake Erie, near Ashtabula Harbor, O., I found high up on the beach among the drift material, specimens of above named species. They were larger than those usually sent from Europe. Although the animals were dead the opercula were in place and the shells were free from wave and sand abrasion. Evidently they were cast up by a heavy sea. As this is an introduced species it is of general interest to learn when and where it was first introduced, the localities where it now abounds, and any facts relative to its natural distribution.—*Geo. J. Streator, Garretttsville, O.*

MR. S. RAYMOND ROBERTS, Treasurer of the Conchological Section of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and author of various papers on the *Cypræidæ*, has removed to New York City.

MR. F. C. BAKER, formerly of Providence, R. I., is pursuing his studies at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

ZONITES LIGERUS var. STONEL.—From Mr. Witmer Stone I have received a form of *Z. ligerus* differing from the type in having a concave, broadly excavated base, with comparatively wide umbilicus, collected by him in New Castle Co., Del. The axis in the type is barely perforated; but in this form it is a millimeter or more wide, and the base around it broadly concave.—*Pilsbry.*